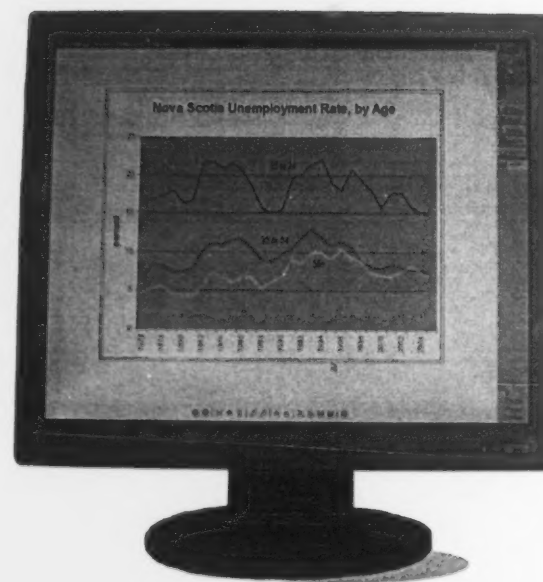


Nova Scotia/Canada Economic Indicators

April 2006
(May 18, 2006)



Notes:

- (1) Statistics Canada estimate July 1
- (2) Annual average
 - a Actual
 - sa Seasonally adjusted
 - p Preliminary
 - pa Preliminary actual
 - i Intention
 - ri Revised intention

Data Sources:

Population, Vital Statistics, Migration - Statistics Canada, Demographic Estimates Section, Quarterly Demographic Statistics, Catalogue No. 91-002

Labour Force - Statistics Canada, Labour Statistics Division, Labour Force Survey, monthly Catalogue No. 71-001-XIE; Labour Force Historical Review, Catalogue No. 71F0004XCB

Employment Insurance - Statistics Canada, Labour Statistics Division, Employment Insurance Statistics, monthly

Consumer Price Index - Statistics Canada, Prices Division, The Consumer Price Index, Catalogue 62-001

Income (Personal Income per Capita, Total Wages & Salaries, Average Weekly Wages) - Statistics Canada, System of National Accounts, Provincial Economic Accounts, quarterly, Catalogue No. 13-213-PPB; Estimates of Labour Income, quarterly, Catalogue No. 13F0016; Employment, Earnings & Hours, monthly, Catalogue No. 72-002

Retail/Wholesale - Statistics Canada, Retail Trade, monthly, Catalogue No. 63-005; New Motor Vehicle Sales, monthly, Catalogue No. 63-007; Wholesale Trade, monthly, Catalogue No. 63-008

Commodity Sector - Statistics Canada, Farm Cash Receipts, quarterly, Catalogue No. 21-001; Sawmills & Planing Mills, monthly, Catalogue No. 35-003; Canada's Mineral Production, annual, Catalogue No. 26-202; Natural Gas Transportation and Distribution, monthly, Catalogue No. 55-002; Electric Power Statistics, monthly, Catalogue No. 57-001; Fisheries & Oceans Canada statistics, annual monthly, Catalogue No. 57-001; Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Shipments, CANSIM Tables 304-0014 and 304-0015; Canadian International Merchandise Trade, monthly, Catalogue No. 65-001

Construction - Statistics Canada, Private and Public Investment in Canada, annual, Catalogue Nos. 61-205; Building Permits, monthly, Catalogue No. 64-001; Canada Mortgage and Housing statistics, monthly/quarterly

Gross Domestic Product - Statistics Canada, System of National Accounts, Provincial Economic Accounts, Catalogue No. 13-213-PPB

NOVA SCOTIA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	Current Reference Period	MONTHLY/QUARTERLY/YEAR-TO-DATE STATISTICS					ANNUAL STATISTICS					
		2 Years Ago	1 Year Ago	Current	% Change		2003	2004	2005	Year-over-Year		
					Reference Period					% Change		
					1 Year Ago/ 2 Years Ago	Current/ 1 Year Ago				2004/2003	2005/2004	
POPULATION	Jan 1/2006	937,196	938,339	936,988	0.1	(0.1)	936,302 (1)	937,509 (1)	937,889 (1)	0.1	0.0	
VITAL STATISTICS												
Births	Oct-Dec/2005	2,043	2,033	2,012	(0.5)	(1.0)	8,650	8,605	8,537	(0.5)	(0.8)	
Deaths	Oct-Dec/2005	2,053	2,078	2,167	1.2	4.3	8,191	8,336	8,522	1.8	2.2	
Marriages	Oct-Dec/2005	827	873	870	5.6	(0.3)	4,878	4,866	4,853	(0.2)	(0.3)	
MIGRATION												
Total Net Migration	Oct-Dec/2005	73	(437)	(973)	--	--	1,362	874	(1,366)	(35.8)	--	
Net Interprovincial	Oct-Dec/2005	91	(179)	(988)	--	--	142	(431)	(2,676)	--	--	
Net International	Oct-Dec/2005	18	(258)	15	--	--	1,220	1,305	1,310	7.0	0.4	
Immigration	Oct-Dec/2005	390	372	465	(4.6)	25.0	1,476	1,770	1,929	19.9	9.0	
Emigration	Oct-Dec/2005	408	630	450	54.4	(28.6)	256	465	619	81.6	33.1	
LABOUR FORCE												
Seasonally Adjusted												
Total Labour Force ('000)	Apr/2006	483.7	485.1	485.2	0.3	0.0	474.6	485.0	483.9	2.2	(0.2)	
Employed ('000)	Apr/2006	440.1	444.3	446.1	1.0	0.4	431.2	442.2	443.1	2.6	0.2	
Goods Industries ('000)	Apr/2006	91.5	91.7	85.6	0.2	(6.7)	92.4	93.7	91.2	1.4	(2.7)	
Service Industries ('000)	Apr/2006	348.6	352.6	360.5	1.1	2.2	338.8	348.5	351.9	2.9	1.0	
Unemployment ('000)	Apr/2006	43.6	40.9	39.1	(6.2)	(4.4)	43.4	42.8	40.8	(1.4)	(4.7)	
Unemployment Rate (%)	Apr/2006	9.0	8.4	8.1	--	--	9.1	8.8	8.4	--	--	
Participation Rate (%)	Apr/2006	64.0	63.8	63.6	--	--	63.1	64.1	63.6	--	--	
Actual												
Employed ('000)	Apr/2006	430.1	434.3	436.4	1.0	0.5	431.2	442.2	443.1	2.6	0.2	
Unemployment Rate (%)	Apr/2006	9.9	9.2	8.8	--	--	9.1	8.8	8.4	--	--	

NOVA SCOTIA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	Current Reference Period	MONTHLY/QUARTERLY/YEAR-TO-DATE STATISTICS					ANNUAL STATISTICS				
		% Change					Year-over-Year				
		Reference Period					% Change				
		2 Years Ago	1 Year Ago	Current	1 Year Ago/ 2 Years Ago	Current/ 1 Year Ago	2003	2004	2005	2004/2003	2005/2004
EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS (EI)											
Total Beneficiaries (#)	Feb/2006	53,930	53,930	52,400	0.0	(2.8)	40,698 (2)	40,941 (2)	40,802 (2)	0.6	(0.3)
Total Benefits Paid (\$'000)	Feb/2006	82,714	68,155	69,642	(17.6)	2.2	680,374	678,533	692,344	(0.3)	2.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1992=100)											
Nova Scotia											
All-Items	Apr/2006	125.1	128.9	132.9	3.0	3.1	123.9	126.1	129.6	1.8	2.8
Food	Apr/2006	123.3	129.1	131.0	4.7	1.5	122.5	125.3	129.2	2.3	3.1
Shelter	Apr/2006	124.2	129.4	135.8	4.2	4.9	122.3	125.4	130.9	2.5	4.4
INCOME											
Personal Income Per Capita (\$)	2005	26,113	26,905	28,114	3.0	4.5	26,113	26,905	28,114	3.0	4.5
Total Wages & Salaries (\$ millions)	Jan-Dec/2005	12,997.2	13,368.9	14,076.0	2.9	5.3	12,997.2	13,368.9	14,076.0	2.9	5.3
Average Weekly Wages & Salaries (\$)	Feb/2006	605.47	631.77	649.43	4.3	2.8	598.25	614.85	636.09	2.8	3.5
RETAIL/WHOLESALE TRADE⁽¹⁾											
All Retail Outlets (\$ millions)	Jan-Feb/2006	1,654.3	1,721.4	1,858.8	4.1	8.0	10,014.9	10,296.5	10,596.1	2.8	2.9
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ millions)	Jan-Mar/2006	256.4	254.7	302.6	(0.7)	18.8	1,313.1	1,282.2	1,383.1	(2.4)	7.9
Wholesale Trade (\$millions)	Jan-Mar/2006	1,643.3	1,514.4	1,567.6	(7.8)	3.5	6,854.3	6,266.7	6,241.8	(8.6)	(0.4)

⁽¹⁾ Statistics Canada terminated department store sales data due to confidentiality constraints.

NOVA SCOTIA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	Current Reference Period	MONTHLY/QUARTERLY/YEAR-TO-DATE STATISTICS						ANNUAL STATISTICS					
		2 Years Ago	1 Year Ago	Current	% Change		2003	2004	2005	Year-over-Year			
					Reference Period					% Change			
					1 Year Ago/	Current/				2004/2003	2005/2003		
					2 Years Ago	1 Year Ago							
COMMODITY SECTORS													
Farm Cash Receipts (\$ millions)	Jan-Dec/2005	424.8	451.4	455.1	6.3	0.8	424.8	451.4	455.1	6.3	0.8		
Fish Landings (\$ millions)	Jan-Dec/2004	801.1	825.9	697.6	p	3.1	(15.5)	825.9	697.6	p	(15.5)	--	
Lumber Production (000m3)	Jan-Feb/2006	228.6	252.2	212.2		10.3	(15.9)	1,648.4	1,750.7	1,556.7	6.2	(11.1)	
Mineral Production ⁽¹⁾ (\$ millions)	2005	263.2	285.6	286.1	p	8.5	0.2	263.2	285.6	286.1	p	8.5	0.2
Marketable Gas Receipts (million m3)	Jan-Sept/2005	3,361.5	3,210.4	2,932.8		(4.5)	(8.6)	4,469.5	4,174.1	--	(6.6)	--	
Power Generation (GW.h)	Jan-Feb/2006	2,393.8	2,313.8	2,112.6		(3.3)	(8.7)	12,386.9	12,563.8	12,371.7	1.4	(1.5)	
Manufacturing Shipments (\$ millions)	Jan-Mar/2006	2,084.6	2,214.5	2,218.7		6.2	0.2	8,642.5	9,281.1	9,796.6	7.4	5.6	
Foreign Exports (\$ millions)	Jan-Mar/2006	1,278.4	1,209.8	1,359.3		(5.4)	12.4	5,351.4	5,479.3	5,669.2	2.4	3.5	
Foreign Imports (\$ millions)	Jan-Mar/2006	1,540.4	1,718.2	1,745.2		11.5	1.6	5,816.1	6,589.9	6,989.4	13.3	6.1	
CONSTRUCTION													
Capital Construction													
Expenditures (\$ millions)	2006	3,662.0	3,699.5	pa	4,176.8	1.0	12.9	3,441.9	3,662.0	3,699.5	pa	6.4	1.0
Building Permits (\$ millions)	Jan-Mar/2006	156.4	156.2		233.0	p	(0.1)	49.2	1,014.1	1,125.8	1,188.3	11.0	5.6
Housing Starts Centres 10,000+													
Starts (units)	Jan-Mar/2006	459	292	578		(36.4)	97.9	3,589	3,313	3,258	(7.7)	(1.7)	
Completions (units)	Jan-Mar/2006	723	511	550		(29.3)	7.6	3,634	3,526	2,991	(3.0)	(15.2)	
All Areas													
Starts (units)	Jan-Mar/2006	563	430	777		(23.6)	80.7	5,096	4,717	4,775	(7.4)	1.2	
Completions (units)	Jan-Mar/2006	1,097	1,032	1,050		(5.9)	1.7	5,434	4,896	4,456	(9.9)	(9.0)	
Under Construction (units)	Mar 31/2006	2,307	2,050	2,629		(11.1)	28.2	2,770	2,653	2,902	(4.2)	9.4	
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT													
Real GDP (chained '97 \$ millions)	2005	24,925	25,271	25,553		1.4	1.1	24,925	25,271	25,553		1.4	1.1
⁽¹⁾ Excludes oil and gas.													

⁽¹⁾ Excludes oil and gas.

CANADA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	Current Reference Period	MONTHLY/QUARTERLY/YEAR-TO-DATE STATISTICS					ANNUAL STATISTICS					
		% Change					Year-over-Year					
		Reference Period					% Change					
		2 Years Ago	1 Year Ago	Current	1 Year Ago/ 2 Years Ago	Current/ 1 Year Ago	2003	2004	2005	2004/2003	2005/2004	
POPULATION	Jan 1/2006	31,805,716	32,107,043	32,422,919	0.9	1.0	31,669,150 (1)	31,974,363 (1)	32,270,507 (1)	1.0	0.9	
VITAL STATISTICS												
Births	Oct-Dec/2005	81,561	81,861	82,550	0.4	0.8	335,202	336,003	339,757	0.2	1.1	
Deaths	Oct-Dec/2005	59,278	59,656	60,741	0.6	1.8	227,285	232,176	236,108	2.2	1.7	
Marriages	Oct-Dec/2005	25,631	25,927	26,645	1.2	2.8	145,048	146,093	151,334	0.7	3.6	
MIGRATION												
Total Net Migration	Oct-Dec/2005	21,610	14,839	22,988	(31.3)	54.9	196,070	197,500	212,227	0.7	7.5	
Immigration	Oct-Dec/2005	53,610	48,091	55,354	(10.3)	15.1	221,402	235,826	262,239	6.5	11.2	
Emigration	Oct-Dec/2005	32,000	33,252	32,366	3.9	(2.7)	25,332	38,326	50,012	51.3	30.5	
LABOUR FORCE												
Seasonally Adjusted												
Total Labour Force ('000)	Apr/2006	17,162.1	17,281.8	17,532.4	0.7	1.5	16,958.5	17,182.3	17,342.6	1.3	0.9	
Employed ('000)	Apr/2006	15,920.1	16,107.9	16,418.2	1.2	1.9	15,672.3	15,947.0	16,169.7	1.8	1.4	
Goods Industries ('000)	Apr/2006	3,995.9	4,003.2	4,019.7	0.2	0.4	3,925.7	3,989.8	4,002.4	1.6	0.3	
Service Industries ('000)	Apr/2006	11,924.2	12,104.7	12,398.5	1.5	2.4	11,746.6	11,957.2	12,167.3	1.8	1.8	
Unemployment ('000)	Apr/2006	1,242.9	1,173.9	1,114.2	(5.6)	(5.1)	1,286.2	1,235.3	1,172.8	(4.0)	(5.1)	
Unemployment Rate (%)	Apr/2006	7.2	6.8	6.4	--	--	7.6	7.2	6.8	--	--	
Participation Rate (%)	Apr/2006	67.7	67.2	67.2	--	--	67.5	67.5	67.2	--	--	
Actual												
Employed ('000)	Apr/2006	15,698.7	15,886.3	16,195.9	1.2	1.9	15,672.3	15,947.0	16,169.7	1.8	1.4	
Unemployment Rate (%)	Apr/2006	7.5	7.0	6.6	--	--	7.6	7.2	6.7	--	--	

CANADA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	Current Reference Period	MONTHLY/QUARTERLY/YEAR-TO-DATE STATISTICS						ANNUAL STATISTICS				
		2 Years Ago	1 Year Ago	Current	% Change Reference Period		2003	2004	2005	Year-over-Year % Change		
					1 Year Ago/	Current/				2004/2003	2004/2003	
					2 Years Ago	1 Year Ago						
EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS (EI)												
Total Beneficiaries (#)	Feb/2006	1,018,910	982,990	944,760 p	(3.5)	(3.9)	841,279 (2)	826,525 (2)	804,353 (2)	(1.8)	(2.7)	
Total Benefits Paid (\$'000)	Feb/2006	1,655,138	1,425,681	1,416,456	(13.9)	(0.6)	14,950,569	14,970,341	14,692,519	0.1	(1.9)	
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1992=100)												
Canada												
All-Items	Apr/2006	123.9	126.9	130.0	2.4	2.4	122.3	124.6	127.3	1.9	2.2	
Food	Apr/2006	123.4	128.3	130.0	4.0	1.3	122.4	124.9	128.0	2.0	2.5	
Shelter	Apr/2006	119.6	123.4	127.7	3.2	3.5	117.5	120.5	124.2	2.6	3.1	
INCOME												
Personal Income Per Capita (\$)	2005	29,369	30,343	31,542	3.3	4.0	29,369	30,343	31,542	3.3	--	
Total Wages & Salaries (\$ millions)	Jan-Dec/2005	541,741.1	563,149.2	593,769.1	4.0	5.4	541,741.1	563,149.2	593,769.1	4.0	5.4	
Average Weekly Wages & Salaries (\$)	Feb/2006	703.61	713.33	746.47	1.4	4.6	690.57	706.03	728.17	2.2	3.1	
RETAIL/WHOLESALE TRADE⁽¹⁾												
All Retail Outlets (\$ millions)	Jan-Feb/2006	56,176.4	59,976.5	63,332.8	6.8	5.6	331,143.4	346,721.5	367,828.5	4.7	6.1	
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ millions)	Jan-Mar/2006	10,391.1	10,919.3	11,463.9	5.1	5.0	50,493.3	49,639.2	52,511.6	(1.7)	5.8	
Wholesale Trade (\$millions)	Jan-Mar/2006	107,453.7	113,848.6	124,038.1	6.0	9.0	418,810.2	446,210.0	470,350.0	6.5	5.4	

(1) Statistics Canada terminated department store sales data due to confidentiality constraints.

CANADA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	Current Reference Period	MONTHLY/QUARTERLY/YEAR-TO-DATE STATISTICS						ANNUAL STATISTICS				
		% Change						Year-over-Year				
		Reference Period						% Change				
		2 Years Ago	1 Year Ago	Current	1 Year Ago/ 2 Years Ago	Current/ 1 Year Ago	2003	2004	2005	2004/2003	2005/2004	
COMMODITY SECTORS												
Farm Cash Receipts (\$ millions)	Jan-Dec/2005	34,360.0	36,521.3	36,936.6	6.3	1.1	34,360.0	36,521.3	36,936.6	6.3	1.1	
Fish Landings (\$ millions)	Jan-Dec/2004	2,177.0	2,231.4	2,177.6 p	2.5	(2.4)	2,231.4	2,177.6 p	--	(2.4)	--	
Lumber Production (000m3)	Jan-Feb/2006	13,251.7	13,990.6	14,151.1	5.6	1.1	79,319.3	84,589.6	82,888.9	6.6	(2.0)	
Mineral Production ⁽¹⁾ (\$ millions)	2005	20,077.2	24,302.7	26,357.0	21.0	8.5	20,077.2	24,302.7	26,357.0	21.0	8.5	
Marketable Gas Receipts (million m3)	Jan-Sept/2005	123,936.7	124,349.6	125,961.1	0.3	1.3	166,395.6	167,425.7	--	0.6	--	
Power Generation (GW.h)	Jan-Feb/2006	108,045.6	109,278.3	108,527.7	1.1	(0.7)	564,218.5	568,730.6	594,706.8	0.8	4.6	
Manufacturing Shipments (\$ millions)	Jan-Mar/2006	138,695.4	146,808.4	150,016.3	5.8	2.2	546,770.2	593,452.5	611,490.6	8.5	3.0	
Foreign Exports (\$ millions)	Jan-Mar/2006	91,201.7	95,650.0	104,713.6	4.9	9.5	354,231.6	385,087.1	408,031.9	8.7	6.0	
Foreign Imports (\$ millions)	Jan-Mar/2006	82,697.2	90,775.0	95,499.5	9.8	5.2	336,103.7	356,055.7	380,691.3	5.9	6.9	
CONSTRUCTION												
Capital Construction												
Expenditures (\$ millions)	2006	154,125.2	167,838.4 pa	179,590.5 i	8.9	7.0	136,763.6	154,125.2	167,838.4 pa	12.7	8.9	
Building Permits (\$ millions)	Jan-Mar/2006	10,388.1	11,521.1	12,652.7	10.9	9.8	50,772.0	55,578.6	60,755.7	9.5	9.3	
Housing Starts Centres 10,000+												
Starts (units)	Jan-Mar/2006	35,483	33,356	39,735	(6.0)	19.1	191,907	204,392	193,470	6.5	(5.3)	
Completions (units)	Jan-Mar/2006	38,342	41,421	41,651	8.0	0.6	173,956	188,345	184,406	8.3	(2.1)	
All Areas												
Starts (units)	Jan-Mar/2006	39,382	37,084	43,917	(5.8)	18.4	218,426	233,431	225,481	6.9	(3.4)	
Completions (units)	Jan-Mar/2006	45,300	47,053	49,321	3.9	4.8	199,244	215,621	211,242	8.2	(2.0)	
Under Construction (units)	Mar 31/2006	131,891	144,844	161,854	9.8	11.7	137,774	155,230	169,880	12.7	9.4	
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT												
Real GDP (chained '97 \$ millions)	2005	1,092,388	1,124,428	1,157,446	2.9	2.9	1,092,388	1,124,428	1,157,446	2.9	2.9	
⁽¹⁾ Excludes oil and gas.												

⁽¹⁾ Excludes oil and gas.